



Sermon Discussion Guide

Jonah and God's Heart for the City - Christian Lindbeck

October 23rd, 2022

Leader Preparation

1. Take some time to look over these questions ahead of time. Choose the ones that you want to make sure you cover with your group. We have highlighted what we think are **key ideas/questions by bolding them.**
2. Pray for your group and your time together as you prepare. This is so helpful!
3. When meeting online you as the leader will need to be more directive than in person. Don't be afraid to invite everyone to answer a question, invite them to share by name, and thank them when they finish. The online format requires a little more intentional orchestrating than an in-person group.
4. Try to start the gathering by getting everyone talking at least once to begin. The Hook section is great for this. When in doubt, have people share stories about their past. (How the week was, favorite memories about the topic for the day, etc). This is a great way to help your group continue to get to know one another.
5. Next, look at the Scripture and what it means. We believe Jesus is discipling people through this Word. Get people into the Scriptures and the Scriptures into people!
6. Finally, end with what God is saying to people and how God is inviting them to respond. These aren't just ideas to know but realities to live in!



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Hook - Getting to know one another

- How is everyone doing this week? This could also be an icebreaker question related to the topic for discussion.
- When have you felt angry or upset over something trivial, or that wasn't really yours to be angry about?
- Describe a time when God met you with patience and grace.

Book - Scripture

- Read the scripture, and discuss a few questions to understand **what the text is saying**.
- **Read Jonah 4: 1-11**
- What does Jonah's prayer in v.2-3 show us about Jonah? How does this relate to his actions throughout the book of Jonah?
- How does God respond to Jonah's anger?
- What actions does God take in this passage? What does God say to Jonah?
- What do His actions and words reveal about His heart for Jonah? For Nineveh? For his creation?
- **Read Matthew 5: 13-16**. How does Jonah Chapter 4 point to this encouragement from Jesus?

Look - Connections to our world today

- This section focuses on implications about **what this text means** about what's wrong in the world, about trusting God, about who God is, etc.
- In Jonah, God shows his mercy and pursuit for those who don't know him, the Ninnevitans. Who are those he is similarly pursuing today in Bellingham? Whatcom and Skagit counties?



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- How do you identify with Jonah in this passage? How does Jonah's experience show what can be challenging in our own faith experiences?
- Have you ever felt your hopes or priorities for others to be out of step with God's? How did He speak to you at that time? How did your priorities come to change?
- What did you find encouraging in this passage? How does the God of Jonah 4 speak into your areas of challenge right now?

Took - Personal Application

- This application focuses on **how God is calling us to respond**. This could be personally, as a family, small group, or church. It could be something to believe, to meditate on, to say or do this week.
- What are the leafy plants God has provided in your life lately - blessings purely through his provision? Thank God for these areas where you are provided for "though you did not tend it or make it grow" (Jonah 4:10, NIV)
- Is there an area or situation where you feel a need for God's heart of patience and grace for all humanity?
 - Lift this to the Lord in prayer as you go into this week.
 - Through the week, create space to meditate on God's deep mercy and patience, and how this manifests in this particular case.
- **Re-read Matthew 5: 13-16.** Where might you be called to be the bearer of God's good news, his invitation of mercy and grace, this week?

Time of Prayer